



How to Prepare Your Vehicle for Winter

- **Check or have a mechanic check the following items on your car:**
 - **Antifreeze levels** - ensure they are sufficient to avoid freezing.
 - **Battery and ignition system** - should be in top condition and battery terminals should be clean.
 - **Brakes** - check for wear and fluid levels.
 - **Exhaust system** - check for leaks and crimped pipes and repair or replace as necessary. *Carbon monoxide is deadly and usually gives no warning.*
 - **Fuel and air filters** - replace and keep water out of the system by using additives and maintaining a full tank of gas.
 - **Heater and defroster** - ensure they work properly.
 - **Lights and flashing hazard lights** - check for serviceability.
 - **Oil** - check for level and weight. Heavier oils congeal more at low temperatures and do not lubricate as well.
 - **Thermostat** - ensure it works properly.
 - **Windshield wiper equipment** - repair any problems and maintain proper washer fluid level.
- **Install good winter tires.** Make sure the tires have adequate tread. All-weather radials are usually adequate for most winter conditions. However, some jurisdictions require that to drive on their roads, vehicles must be equipped with chains or snow tires with studs.
- **Maintain at least a half tank of gas** during the winter season.
- **Place a winter emergency kit in each car** that includes:
 - a shovel
 - windshield scraper and small broom
 - flashlight
 - battery powered radio
 - extra batteries
 - water
 - snack food
 - matches
 - extra hats, socks and mittens
 - First aid kit with pocket knife
 - blanket(s)
 - tow chain or rope
 - road salt and sand
 - booster cables
 - emergency flares
 - fluorescent distress flag

